

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 03567 190342Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 PM-04 COME-00 DODE-00 NSF-01
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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 445

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGENN AS
SUBJ: R/V VEMA

REF: (A) STATE 113896, (B) CANBERRA 3480, (C) CANBERRA A-050,
APRIL 13, 1977

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. THE REFERENCED AIRGRAM (REF C) WAS TRANSMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT ON APRIL 13, 1977; SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN CLEARANCE PROCEDURES FOR FOREIGN RESEARCH VESSELS; TAGS: TGEN, AS. THE AIRGRAM TRANSMITTED A DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS NOTE OF APRIL 1, 1977 TO ALL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS RESPECTING VISITS TO AUSTRALIA BY FOREIGN RESEARCH VESSELS. ENCLOSED WITH THE NOTE, AND DULY TRANSMITTED WITH THE REFERENCED AIRGRAM, WAS A LIST OF INFORMATION REQUIRED TO PROCESS CLEARANCES FOR VISITS BY RESEARCH VESSELS.

2. THE TEXT OF THIS LIST IS SET FORTH BELOW:

QUOTE INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED TWO MONTHS IN ADVANCE IN SUPPORT OF A REQUEST FOR CLEARANCE FOR RESEARCH VESSEL FOR A VISIT TO AUSTRALIA AND ITS TERRITORIES:

- NAME OF VESSEL

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- TYPE OF VESSEL, INCLUDING SOURCE OF POWER
- NAME OF CAPTAIN
- NAMES OF ALL CREW MEMBERS ON BOARD
- NAMES AND NATIONALITIES OF ALL PASSENGERS, INCLUDING THOSE OF SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL
- NAME OF DOCTOR EMBARKED (IF ANY)
- LENGTH, BREADTH AND DRAUGHT OF SHIP

- FULL LOAD DISPLACEMENT TONNAGE
- INTERNATIONAL CALL SIGN
- RADIO AND RADAR FREQUENCIES, POWER OF MODULATION

INTENDED FOR USE IN PORT

- LAST PORT OF CALL BEFORE AUSTRALIA
- FIRST PORT OF CALL AFTER LEAVING AUSTRALIA
- ITINERARY OF AUSTRALIAN PORTS, DETAILS OF MOVEMENTS

WITHIN AUSTRALIAN WATERS AND ANY EXTERNAL TERRITORIES WHICH IT IS PROPOSED TO VISIT

- TIMES OF ENTRY TO/DEPARTURE FROM AUSTRALIAN PORTS
- FUEL REQUIREMENTS
- NAME(S) OF SHIP'S AGENTS APPOINTED
- NAME OF ANY SCIENTIFIC AGENCY(S) (INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL BODIES - E.G. THE UNITED NATIONS, OTHER COUNTRIES AND WHETHER NATIONAL OR PRIVATE GROUPS - E.G. UNIVERSITIES) SPONSORING THE RESEARCH, PARTICULARLY THAT PERFORMED IN AUSTRALIAN WATERS/TERRITORIES
- NAME(S) OF ANY SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATIONS OR PERSONNEL CONTACTED OR TO BE CONTACTED IN AUSTRALIA
- DETAILS OF THE RESEARCH PURPOSE OF THE VOYAGE, INCLUDING SPECIFIC DETAILS OF THE RESEARCH PROPOSED FOR AUSTRALIAN WATERS/TERRITORIES AND THE AREAS FOR WHICH THE RESEARCH IS PROPOSED. IF THE RESEARCH IS IN THE MARINE AQUATIC LIFE SCIENCES AREA (INCLUDING EXPERIMENTAL OR EXPLORATORY FISHING) DETAILS ARE TO BE PROVIDED OF:
 - (A) SPECIES BEING INVESTIGATED IN AUSTRALIAN WATERS;
 - (B) AREA OF AUSTRALIAN WATERS WHERE INVESTIGATIONS ARE BEING CARRIED OUT;
 - (C) OBJECTIVE OF INVESTIGATION; AND

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(D) PROPOSALS (IF ANY) TO MAKE RESULTS OF FISHERY RESEARCH AVAILABLE TO AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH WORKERS AND/OR TO INVITE THOSE RESEARCHERS TO PARTICIPATE IN A CRUISE.

NOTE: (A) THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD EXPECT TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE AUSTRALIAN SCIENTISTS BOARD THE VESSEL AND TAKE PART IN ANY RESEARCH INVOLVING AUSTRALIA AND ADJACENT WATERS. IN THE CASE OF A FISHERY RESEARCH VESSEL, IT IS EXPECTED THAT AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES SCIENTISTS AND FISHERIES OFFICERS WOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE VESSEL FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE RESEARCH.

(B) THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT MAY ALSO REQUEST INFORMATION ON THE EQUIPMENT CARRIED BY THE VESSEL AND ON THE SCIENTIFIC RESULTS OF THE VOYAGE.

(C) ALL VESSELS, CREWS AND PASSENGERS MUST COMPLY WITH AUSTRALIAN HEALTH, IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS. THIS INCLUDES THE NORMAL CREW DOCUMENTATION AND TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, AS WELL AS

VISAS, FOR ALL PASSENGERS, INCLUDING SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL. FREIGHT AND BAGGAGE ARE SUBJECT TO GUARANTINE CONTROL AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS. (D) ANY PROPOSALS TO CONDUCT FISHERY RESEARCH IN WATERS WHERE AUSTRALIA EXERCISES JURISDICTION OVER FOREIGN FISHING OPERATIONS (INCLUDING RESEARCH INTO LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE AUSTRALIAN CONTINENTAL SHELF) MUST BE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED AND APPROVED BY THE RELEVANT AUSTRALIAN AUTHORITIES. END QUOTE

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3. COMMENT: DFA OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD US THAT THE NEW CLEARANCE PROCEDURE WAS BROUGHT ABOUT FOLLOWING THE DISCOVERY OF A SOVIET RESEARCH VESSEL DOING UNAUTHORIZED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND SOMEWHAT SUSPICIOUS RESEARCH IN AUSTRALIAN WATERS. THESE OFFICIALS NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT NEW PROCEDURES OF COURSE HAVE TO BE APPLIED EQUALLY TO THE RESEARCH VESSELS OF ALL NATIONS. ALSTON

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